

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 286012

15

ORIGIN ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-01 ISO-00 DHA-01 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: D/HA/ORM:JLCARLIN

APPROVED BY: D/HA/ORM:JLCARLIN

----- 083687

R 221840Z NOV 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 286012

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LUSAKA MASERU MBABANE
PRETORIA DTD 161230Z NOV 76

QUOTE UNCLAS GABORONE 2108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PINS, BC, SF, RH

SUBJECT: GOB PRESS RELEASE ON REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: A. GABORONE 1965 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 268054 (NOTAL)

1. GOB OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE
NOVEMBER 16 ON REFUGEE SITUATION IN BOTSWANA: QTE: BOTSWANA HAS
ALWAYS BEEN A COUNTRY OF FIRST REFUGEE FOR MANY POLITICAL REFUGEES
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT GRANTS POLITICAL
ASYLUM TO SUCH REFUGEES AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. THIS POLICY
OBVIOUSLY IMPOSES A HEAVY BURDEN ON THE LIMITED RESOURCES OF THIS
COUNTRY, BUT THERE IS NO INTENTION THAT IT SHOULD BE CHANGED.

2. QTE: THIS YEAR, THE BURDEN IMPOSED ON OUR RESOURCES BY OUR
REFUGEE POLICY HAS BEEN GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE. A LARGE NUMBER
OF REFUGEES HAS ENTERED BOTSWANA THIS YEAR. THEY ARRIVE DAILY.
SOME OF THEM REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY WHILE OTHER PROCEED TO OTHER
COUNTRIES. THUS THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA FLUCTUATES
FROM DAY TO DAY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 286012

EM QTE: AT PRESENT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1500 REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA. THE ACCOMMODATION PROBLEMS CREATED BY THIS SITUATION ARE QUITE CONSIDERABLE. FOR THERE IS AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF HOUSING IN BOTSWANA'S URBAN CENTRES, WHERE MOST OF THE REFUGEES LIVE. QUITE OFTEN THE REFUGEES HAVE NOWHERE TO LIVE AND THIS, IN TURN, LEADS TO MANY OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

4. QTE: IN RECENT MONTHS, THE NUMBER OF YOUNG REFUGEES OF SCHOOL-GOING AGE HAS INCREASED SHARPLY. BUT THERE ARE NO PLACES IN BOTSWANA'S SCHOOLS FOR THEM. THUS SOME OF THE 500 SOWETO STUDENTS WHO HAVE FLED INTO BOTSWANA SINCE JUNE THIS YEAR HAVE HAD TO PROCEED TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO PURSUE THEIR STUDIES. THOSE REFUGEES WHO ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO MOVE TO OTHER COUNTRIES FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY IN ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

5. QTE: THIS SITUATION IS CAUSING THE GOVERNMENT A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN. THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE URGENTLY TO RELIEVE THE SITUATION, THE PRESENT FRIENDLY AND ACCOMMODATING ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA TOWARDS REFUGEES MIGHT CHANGE. THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT HAPPEN.

6. QTE: THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF REFUGEES ARE, HOWEVER, EXTREMELY LIMITED. THIS MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN ACHIEVE WHAT IT DESIRES ONLY IF ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE IS FORTHCOMING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE RESOURCES OF SMALL BOTSWANA NATION ARE TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR SUCH A MAJOR TASK.

7. QTE: ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS REQUIRED NOT ONLY IN THE FORM OF DIRECT AID TO BOTSWANA, IT IS ALSO REQUIRED IN THE FORM OF WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR THOSE REFUGEES WHO WISH TO LEAVE BOTSWANA.

8. QTE: THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO IT IS A CHANGE IN BOTSWANA'S PRESENT POLICY TOWARDS REFUGEES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 286012

9. COMMENTS BY SEPTTEL. ALBERTI UNQUOTE KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE286012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/HA/ORM:JLCARLIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760435-0968
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761125/aaaaavkb.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GABORONE 1965, 76 STATE 268054
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAR 2004 by harleykd>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOB PRESS RELEASE ON REFUGEE SITUATION
TAGS: SREF, PINS, BC, SF, RH
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006